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From: Friday, August 10, 2007 8:23 AM
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Cc:
Subject: Dermal Resource Guide comments 8-07

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Dermal Resource
Guide comments...

COMMENTS ON "Managing Occupational Exposures of Skin to Hazardous Chemicals"

There is clearly a need for more and better information for workers and employers to reduce the risk of skin disorders at work. So I was excited to get this draft publication in the mail. Unfortunately it didn't live up to my expectations. It is basically a 350 pages of abstracts and tables summarizing the areas covered by these articles or publications. I can't see it being useful. It will sit on the shelf and gather dust and quickly be outdated. Even if you find an article that looks useful, how would you access it? It would be more useful to have this be a database on the NIOSH website that can be searched and sorted with links to websites with useful information and downloadable publications. As an example, reference 52 is on toxicity of methyl methacrylate in dentistry. This might be useful to someone. But how would they find it without looking through the whole publication? A web database could be search for terms like dentistry and identify it quickly. Looking at the NIOSH Skin Disorders website, such a database would be a useful addition. If there is an interest in creating a bibliography, make it an annotated one with real information about what each publication has and on how useful each one is for various purposes, e.g. worker training, and organized perhaps by occupation or industry. That would direct people to the most useful resources and not overwhelm them with hundreds of other articles that are difficult to distinguish from one another or choose between. With so much information available on the internet using search engines, this publication seems to fall far short of being a useful resource.